ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to set up any separate organisation for technology assessment under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme. The Indian component of the Joint Working Group, envisaged under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), would also be the apex body for clearance and taking up implementation of the activities under the Vaccine Action Programme. The apex body would be assisted by experts groups of Indian scientists who would constitute peer groups, as may be required, to review the programmes to be taken up under the Vaccine Action Programme.

Denial of Minimum Pension to Military Pensioners

2027. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether para 3 of the Ministry of Defence O.M. No. 2(14)87-PIC dated 5th March, 1987 stipulates payment of a minimum pension of Rs. 375 per month in all cases w.e.f. 1st January, 1986;

(b) whether it is a fact that military pensioners, getting disability pension, have been refused payment of this minimum amount by the DPDO-I Red Fort, Delhi; if so, what remedial step, have been taken and with what results; and

(c) what is the comparative position of similar payments being made by DPDO-II, Red Fort, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL). (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member presumably refers to the instructions dated 5th March, 1987 issued by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and not by Ministry of Defence. These instructions stipulate that the total amount of pension (superannuation/retiring/invalid/compensation) or family pension, plus the relief thereon upto average Consumer Price Index 608 shall be stepped upto Rs. 375 p.m. The minimum amount of Rs. 375 p.m. will apply after taking into account all elements like service pension, disability pension, *ad-hoc* reliefs sanctioned from time to time, personal pension etc. Subsequently Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions have stipulated by their O.M. dated 16th April, 1987 that where the Disability Pension is drawn in addition to Invalid Pension, the minimum limit of Rs. 375 will apply to total of two pensions and where the Disability Pension is drawn in isolation, the minimum limit of Rs. 375 will apply for 100 per cent disability and for lesser degree of disability, the minimum limit will be proportionately less. Accordingly the DPDO's (Defence Pension Disbursement Office) are not authorising the minimum pension of Rs. 375 to military pensioners in receipt of only disability elements of pension in isolation.

Effect of the New Pension Rules

2028. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension (gross amount) of persons retired between January, 1986 and March, 1987 have become less under new Pension Rules than the pension they were getting as fixed on their retirement under old rules; and if not, what are the details thereof;

(b) what remedial steps have been taken and with what results; and

(c) whether such pensioners are being asked to pay back the 'extra amount' which they got since 1st January, 1986 under the old rules, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To provide relief in such cases a provision has been made in the orders for those who retired between 1st January, 1986 and 30th June, 1987 enabling them to opt for retention of the pre-revised scales of pay and to have their pension and gratuity calculated under